decent thing, and of the said hand-maidens the performance of every seemly and becoming duty,—I have drawn the letters I and O and the human face together, in order always to approach nearer to the consummate perfection of our Attic letters, which are XXIII in number; which number is equal to the nine Muses, the seven Liberal Arts, the four Cardinal Virtues, and the said three Graces; which said Muses, Liberal Arts, Cardinal Virtues, and Graces are, in all, XXIII in number.

INasmuch as I have gone so far in contemplation of well-formed letters, it seems to me to be not useless in this place to point out that the number of XXIII letters, likewise that of the nine Muses, the seven Liberal Arts, the four Cardinal Virtues, and the three Graces, was secretly constituted & made to agree with the number of vital channels and of the noblest organs of the human body, which also are in number three-and-twenty.

FIrst for the nine Muses, & for the nine Mutes, we will take the nine channels of vital essence, of which, as I have set down above, seven are in the head, and two others below the belly. Those in the head are the two ears, the two eyes, the two nostrils, and the mouth; the other two are the virile member and the anus. For the seven Liberal Arts, and for the seven Semivowels, we will take the brain, the lung, the liver, the heart, the spleen, the navel, and the groin. For the four Cardinal Virtues and the three Graces, and for the five Latin vowels, the Ypsilon, and the aspirate H, we will take the two hands, the two feet, the two shoulders, and the rump. Thus we shall find the human body and perfectly formed man to be the model for the disposition of the number of our letters, and in like manner for the nine Muses, the seven Liberal Arts, the four Cardinal Virtues, and the three Graces, already many times combined for argument's sake; of which thing the better to show forth the truth and to make the reason thereof more manifest, I have here portrayed and drawn two figures of men, one for the disposition of the letters, the other for the said Muses and their companions.

YOU can see in this next figure how the number XXIII of the Attic letters adapts itself, as I have said, to the noblest organs & regions of the human body; and not without reason; for our worthy Ancient Fathers were so virtuous in their speculations that they determined secretly to make clear that the perfect man is he in whom fine letters and goodly learning are so closely & intimately instilled that all parts and

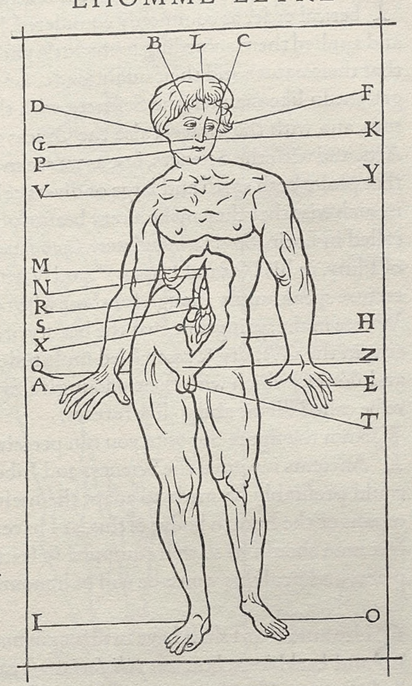
motions of his body are attended by the noble quality which Cicero in chapter XXXV of the first book of his *De Officiis,* & at the beginning of the *Orator ad Brutum* calls in Greek, πρεπον, and in Latin, *decorum,*[34] which means in our French tongue, decent & seemly in all his acts, and, consequently, in all his doings & sayings a virtuous man.

BEfore I draw the other portrait which I have promised, I propose to set down here in writing all the letters as they should be applied to the nine Muses & their companions, & to the most notable parts of the human body, so that you can the more easily see and understand their perfect accord as follows:—

B. Urania: The right eye.
C. Calliope: The left eye.
D. Polymnia: The right ear.
F. Melpomene: The left ear.
G. Clio: The right nostril.
K. Erato: The left nostril.
P. Terpsichore: The mouth.
Q. Euterpe: The anus.
T. Thalia: The virile member.

L. Musica: The brain.
M. Astronomia: The lung.

LHOMME LETRE



N. Arithmetica: The liver.
R. Geometria: The heart.
S. Rhetorica: The spleen.
X. Dialectica: The navel.
Z. Grammatica: The groin.

A. Justicia: The right hand.
E. Fortitudo: The left hand.
I. Prudentia: The right foot.
O. Temperantia: The left foot.

V. Pasithea: The right shoulder.
Y. Aglaia: The left shoulder.
H. Euphrosyne: The rump.

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